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RECOGNITION IN HEAVEN

I Cor. 13:12

" Then shall I know even as also I am known. I do not claim to be an authority on this subject, but I have read a great deal about it. And I will try to put all of these things together which may be helpful to you. With the prayer that it will bless, help and not hurt your life.

Of all the questions that I have ever thought about, or that still are asked by man - they relate to the most important thing of man's origin and really man's destiny. Where is a man going? So a man looks backwards and a man looks forwards. Wondering just what happened and there is something in man that revolts against life just being an endless sleep. That is, when a man comes to death, he thinks about the future. He is not just a victim of time or space. But there is definitely something out before.

Henry Jowett said, "We must preach on these great subjects whose vastness almost terrifies us as we approach them." Now when we think about the subject of Heavenly recognition, it is a subject that is almost too wide for us to approach. And yet there is something that thrills and warms the heart.

As I pointed out in the sermon last week, all of us wish at times, that Christ might have said more. When that great question, which we would like to have put to him - which we would like to have an exact definition and information. So it is, with this question of recognition which presents to us a problem - and yet it has unusual interests.

The machinery of our modern life is pressed down in such a way that we think

of things in a materialistic way. But then the spiritual will not be shut off in the times of our unusual loneliness or in the periods of meditation, or in periods of our great sorrow. We are always asking ourselves - shall we know each other in Heaven?

A news writer by the name of Weed said, "I cannot believe that the purpose of our creation is fulfilled by our short existence here, to the extent to me, he says - that there will be an existence in another world." Where we know others, and others know us. That is necessary, he said, to supplement life here because of the inequalities and because of moral significance.

We know that there is so little trust in God today. That many people do not know where to find the answer. Dr. Robert G. Lee said, "I believe in recognition in Heaven as surely as I believe that there is a God. If consciousness, character, love and memory and fellowship are here in this life - why should there be any question about it."

So as we think about this, we are not just taking speculation but some things are certainties and will help us to imply what really happens.

Our text here in Cor. says for two reasons - in the first place every one of us expects to go to Heaven. I do not believe that there is a man, woman, or child listening to me now, who does not expect at last to go to Heaven. And I am glad of that. The only thing is to see that you are on the right road to Heaven. Do you remember Jesus said, I go to prepare a place for you. And whether I go, you know and the way you know. And Thomas said to him, Lord, we know not whether thou

goest and how can we know the way. Jesus said, I am the way. So if you and I are in Christ tonight, and if we have accepted him as our Saviour, trusted him and are trying to follow him, there is no doubt that we are on the way to Heaven. If we want to know some more things about it.

Another reason this subject is so vital is - that there is not one person here who is listening to me, but what has lost a loved one. And sometimes, we think about the dear ones who have gone. We wonder if we shall know them. And I suppose you have wondered in your heart. And we need to examine the subject in the Scriptures and be more careful and more intense. Than any other subject in the Bible. Now, a great number of scholars have said, that it is their conviction that we shall know each other in Heaven. And so I am here tonight, to tell you the reasons that have brought me to the conclusions that they have arrived at. In believing that we shall recognize each other. And I want you to listen to these reasons as we go through them.

First, Heaven is a place. Now we call attention to that in our last sermon. We are in the habit of thinking about Heaven just floating by. With no foundation. But Heaven is a place - just like this earth is a place. And it is going to be eternal - this world is going to be destroyed. You know Heaven is spoken of the city whose maker and builder is God. It is spoken of as a better country. And as pilgrims we pass through this strange land. We even sing - I am but a stranger here. Heaven is my home. Jesus said, I am going to prepare a place for you. Bear that in mind - that Heaven is a place. And we need to remember this very thing.

ie A little girl was dying and her mother was telling her all about Heaven. And about Jesus. That he was the best and the kindest man that ever lived. And the

little child exclaimed, Mother, if it is like that - take me there. How true!
Heaven without Jesus would be like night without stars. Or a day without the
sun. Or a rainbow without any colors.

It is going to be a place. And as that hymn writer said I shall know him,
I shall know him. And redeemed by his side, I shall stand. I shall know him,
I shall know him. By the print of the nails in his hand.

Second, the inhabitants of Heaven are people. I know there are angels
there and blessed spirits perhaps of whom we have no account of in God's word.
We may be sure of this. That those who inhabit Heaven are going to be people.
John said, he had a vision. And he said, I saw a great number clothed in white.
And an elder said to him, who are these John? He seemed to be afraid to give an
answer. Presently, he said to him, Sir, thou knowest as if he would not venture
to say. Then the elder answered, these are they who came out of the great
tribulation and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the
lamb. Who are they - they are the redeemed. They are among the inhabitants of
Heaven as the people - the redeemed. And many of our dear ones who have passed
through the trials and the tribulation, of this world. And they have gone to
be with him.

The next thing to notice about these people is - these people have bodies.
Bear this in mind. They are sown in natural body and raised a spiritual body.
These spiritual bodies are not such as we have now. That are hampered by the
flesh. But these are not burdened by flesh. And they can pass to and fro -
for example, we think of how the spirit of the angels could travel from place
to place. You know that Jesus passed in and out, and through a house. And was

caught away. And after his crucifixion - the saints arose from the graves. And showed their bodies to the Disciples. So we know that these people have bodies after the resurrection. Now this brings us to our question - which we are talking about. Since Heaven is going to be a place and inhabited with people. Are these bodies going to be recognizable. Will we know each other. How shall we know each other in these spiritual bodies. Which we shall dwell in - in Heaven. What are the arguments for this.)

I. FIRST, ~~THIS~~ IS NOTHING IN THE SCRIPTURE AGAINST IT

You cannot find anything in the Bible - from beginning to end, that speaks against it. On the other hand, you find encouraging things to believe that it is so.

Don't you know that when Jesus was asked by the Disciples - suppose a woman has five husbands. And by and by, they all die. Whose wife will she be in the resurrection. Now Jesus might have set the whole question at rest by one simple saying. Why in the resurrection, you won't know each other. But Jesus did not. He also dealt very fairly with them. He said, this about Heaven - if it were not so, I would have told you. And he would have said then, you will not know each other in the resurrection. But he simply said in the resurrection, the relations will be different. You will be like the angels.

Don't you know, the angel said to John, I am thy fellow servant. So in the resurrection Jesus teaches us to believe the relation will be different and we will recognize each other.

There are people who say, such as a mother might say, well - when I get to Heaven, shall I find my sweet child who has been absent from me. And if I recognize people there, and find that my child is missing - how could I be happy! The only reply that we can make about this is - that God does not answer that question. I cannot answer that question anywhere in Scripture. I can only say this - we will be happy in Heaven. And Jesus, furthermore, to be with him is better off than to be anywhere else because he is the Saviour. Who would undertake to say that your loved ones who have gone out of this world - and for whom you have the great hope, who have caught the glimpse of the Saviour.

We think of our memory - shall we forget forever those whom we know or knew on earth. Shall we forever be unfamiliar with them. Those with whom we have talked and walked with in this life. We have locked arms in sweet fellowship, and joined hands in holy work. And up there, you have an idea that we will not know them. Will death come some like some man pruning a vine and cut away the branch of memory? And that the memory of our departed ones will be a void. If this happened, we would be worse off than the animal. Because you know a calf taken from a cow will morn for a night. And then in a day or so, the calf is forgotten.

But here is a poor human mother, who morns for months as she goes down sunset trail and brings her tears because of a child who has died 40 years before. And here is an old man who is 80 years old, and yet he mourns for a boy who passed away years ago. No, I do not think that our memory will be buried, and forgotten.

Second, there are some views of Heaven that help us to see how things might be.

First, Heaven is represented as a feast. And I am here to tell you tonight, that if you were invited everyone of you to a feast, the feast of the lamb, and to say to you to come everyone of you and to partake of it, it will be your privilege. Let him that heareth say come, and whosoever will - let him come. Now Heaven is represented as a feast.

Now, what I want to point out to you - what would you think, if we had a feast held here as the banquet last Monday night. With Grady Nutt, to speak. And the information given out, that came out in The Messenger and was announced in the Bulletin, that we held a feast last Monday. But nobody at the feast knew anybody else. Now would not that be a very strange feast or banquet. With everybody a stranger. Well, even if you had a masked party - but there would not be any masking in Heaven. And so when God tells you in Heaven that there is going to be a feast, I understand it that the guests will know each other.

A second thing that he says about this is - that it is represented as a family. The whole family of God on earth is going to be a family in Heaven. Now that is one of the sweetest thoughts - that in Heaven and on earth - God has a family. Some who have passed over to the other side, and some who are on this side. You have spiritual eyes that could be opened tonight - I think you might see even some of those looking down with anxious hearts - hoping that their loved ones would give their hearts to God even this very hour. The whole family - the good in earth and in Heaven. Some have passed over, some are now passing over, it will not be long - era you who are listening to me who will pass over and then hear the welcome words. Child, thy father calls, come home. And so, a blessed truth is that when new children are being born into the family everyday, in this country - and across the seas and all over the world. Did you ever think as the Gospel spreads, and as his work increases, more and more are going out and preaching the word. And the joy of Heaven is increased.

They rejoice over every sinner that is born into the Kingdom. They are headed for the great and the better land.

Now think with me - could you think of a family sitting around in a circle, say you are seated at the table in the home. And not one of them knowing any other member of the family. Would it not be a strange family? Can you think of a family like that. Well, I really cannot conceive of God's family sitting around in Heaven and not knowing one another. And when God represents it as the whole family, and all crossing over, and by and by the last one crosses over and gets safely into Heaven. I believe that family will know one another.

III. WHAT ABOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE

I might stop here and come back to our text - then shall I know, even as I am known. This Scripture text says to us, that in the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now. As we look at a reflection in a poor mirror. Someday we are going to see him in the completeness - (face to face). Now, all we have is a hazy, blurred vision. But I will see everything clearly, just as God sees into my heart right now. (Then shall I know - even as I am known.) An old preacher was asked by his wife - do you think that we will know one another in Heaven. To his wife, we know one another here - and we certainly will not have less sense in Heaven than we have here.

Now in reference to this - let me point out a few things in the Bible.

First, the transfiguration On the Mount of Transfiguration - there are some things that we can learn. There was Jesus on the Mount. Three of his Apostles were

with him. There appeared Moses, Elijah, and Peter - and said, let us build three tabernacles. One - and did not Peter know that Moses and Elijah were there. And if he knew them while in his flesh, don't you suppose that he knows them now since he has gone to Heaven.

✓ Second, the parable of the rich man. Jesus represents him in torment - looking up. And beholds Lazarus in Abraham's bosom. Now if a man in Hell can recognize a man in Heaven, don't you suppose another man in Heaven could recognize him. Well, it intensifies the horrors of Hell. To think that you can see and know those in Heaven. This is a fearful picture, my friends - that we might see Heaven while feeling Hell.

✓ Third, Jesus said, many will come from the East and the West and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What does it mean - if it does not mean with sitting down with them, we will know them and know that they are there. And I tell you that I believe we shall know them probably really without any introduction. By what we have read in the Scriptures - we will be able to recognize Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

And as somebody has said, when we walk down the golden streets of that beautiful city, and you approach somebody - you will say, well, there comes old Isaiah. He is so dignified in form. And then you will come and say, well, there is old Paul. You will say, brother Paul, let's sit down here together for about 2500 years and talk awhile. Tell me something of the glorious battles of life. And some day you will hear a voice singing in Heaven and that will be the voice of Mary Magdalene. And how can she sing. She is the poor sinner who lay at the feet of Jesus. With whom he cast seven devils. You will not need any introduction to her. What does this text

say to us. I shall know even as I am known.

✓ Fourth, the first fruits. This is a strong argument. Jesus Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection. Now, what does - what do we understand this to be. Some of you have lived in the country. And suppose you have looked at a bundle of wheat. And you will say - now this is the first fruit of the harvest. You will go over here to the orchard and you will pick a basket of apples and you will say - this is the first fruits. Or you could go to an orange tree and pick a basket of oranges, or you go and pick a half a dozen ears of corn. Now what you say is - now I expect that this is a pretty good sample of the rest of the crop. This is the first fruits. Now Jesus arose from the death and said, I am the first fruits of the resurrection. What are we to expect but that the first fruits of the resurrection harvest are to be like him.

Now what happened when he arose. After he arose from the dead, looked up into his face and said, Master. Thomas touched his side, hands, and said - my Lord and my God - they knew Jesus, after the resurrection. And he said that he was the first fruits of the resurrection. Now, is not the rest of the balance of those who are raised going to be like him. When we rise from our graves, we'll be like him. He says so. We shall be satisfied, when we shall awake in his likeness. They knew Jesus - they will know you. They will know me.

✓ Fifth, an account. The Bible says every one of us must give an account of himself to God. Now don't you suppose that this means that you are going to be identified when you stand up to give your account. Furthermore, he says, something like this is going to happen up there. He says, some of us are coming before him and he will say this to us. I was sick, and ye visited me. Naked, and ye clothed me.

Thirsty, and you gave me drink. And that we as persons will say this, Lord, when did we do these things. And Jesus will answer, in as much as ye did it unto one of the least of these my Disciples, you have done it unto me.

Does not that look as if you would be known. Here is a woman - who gives a cup of water to a poor child. Or she prepares a meal and delivers it to a sick person. Do you know that Jesus Christ has treasured up, and will remember these things, and will tell you about it in that day. That is a blessed thought.

Who does not want to love such a Saviour. And do everything they can for him. These things are true. I will not forget a cup of cold water given in the name of a Disciple.

Sixth, Paul. The writings of Paul - we have much that declares the truth that we are talking about tonight. Paul even said this one time, of the people that he had led to Christ. He calls it to mind - and he says, in that day, ye shall be my joy and my crown of righteousness. What did Paul mean. He meant this that out at Corinth and Ephesus, and Rome and Athens, and out of every place where he visited, and preached - he says, I shall see men and women and children that I have led to Christ in those lands. Dear friend, if there is a joy above another in Heaven, it will be to stand and look into the face of some poor individual that you went after and brought back to God. And that was saved by your efforts.

There are many things that happen around deathbeds which we cannot explain except by the light of this truth. That we are speaking about here. Someone told me this past week about the mother telling them, about a death that took place many

years ago. In the little country home that when this person was sick, and had prayed and said I am going to get well for awhile - and he did. But then, later on, when death came - this person describing it said, that there was a feeling of something that went through this house. As the Spirit of God came and took that Christian away.

23 There are many illustrations that people have had at death - that probably would speak to our subject. Dr. Felix of Lexington, Kentucky, talked about the kingdom of God and he said - I had a strange experience. I was sitting beside the bed of a dying woman, and she was almost gone. And presently she fixed a look and a gaze toward the ceiling for a minute or two, and then said they are gone. He said, I thought that her mind was wandering. And simply said, did you see someone? She said yes, my husband and my little boy were right there. They are gone now. Do you know me. He thought her mind was upset. She said, Dr. Felix, of course I do. Do you think I am out of my mind. But I am not - I saw them. They were right there. Her mother and several others were sitting around in the room. And they asked her - do you know me, do you know me. She said, certainly I know you. Why shouldn't I know you. And in a few minutes, she was dead.

44 I read about a little child that lost its mother very young. Only two weeks old. It had never known its mother and they raised this child. Until after it was about 4 years of age. And at that age, the child died. And when it died, the story is that it stretched up its little hands and said, oh, there, is Mama. And the little hands fell back upon its breast and she had gone.

45 Old Dr. Andrew Broaddus of Virginia - when he was dying. Someone said what makes you smile. So he said, the angels are teaching me what I shall do in Heaven.

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H. M. Horton said, I was - one of my dear ones was falling asleep in Jesus.
 We were sitting around the bed, and she looked up into her mother's face, and
 with quiet calm said this -- Mama, I see Grandmother in Heaven. Now dear friends,
how are we to understand these things. I am telling you what we ought to believe
 about this. I believe in this approaching hour of death, and coming to the
 moment of departure to be with the Lord, that he comes to receive us. And we seem
 to move within the veil - which is moved aside for a moment to get a glimpse into
that glory land.

I remember on several occasions, having individuals tell me that they have
heard beautiful music, who is singing. Where is that beautiful music coming
 from.

Red Jones - I am ready & want to go 91 yrs -

Now I have given you the reasons why I believe that that land beyond - that
 future world out there, for those who are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ -
shall know each other. And there shall be no doubt about it.

IV. THE APPEAL IS - LET US TRY TO KNOW EACH OTHER A LITTLE BETTER DOWN HERE

Now the last thing that I would like to focus your attention upon is - the
 question of knowing each other there. But I am far more concerned, I believe,
 that you will know each other right here. Let us try to know each other better
 right here. Let us try to get a little closer to each other. Let us give each
 other more help. More care. More love. Let us try to get all of our friends
 and all of our loved ones to journey with us along this Heavenly road.

Now that is what we are here for tonight. Once more to offer to you salvation - in the name of Jesus Christ. To every unsaved soul, I would say to you - whosoever will may come with us even tonight and start this Heavenly journey. Will you go, we are ready to help you.

every body Prayed & sought to know & help -

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The story of John B. Dough - he said he was overcome by drink. And utterly downcast as he walked the streets. His toes were out of the shoes - and there were holes in the bottom of his shoes. His hair was sticking through holes in his hat. His clothes were old and ragged. And he went along the street saying, I care for nobody and nobody cares for me. At that time a man met him and said, Dough, is it not time that you were turning around and leading a better life. I wish you would go with me tonight. Dough did not want to go. He insisted and finally said, I will go. And that night he resolved - I will lead a better life. The next day, he stood in a carpenter shop with a chisel in his hand. Working to get something to eat that day and the chisel turned to a serpent. He saw the eyes glaring up at him - and he said, he knew that it was not so. But it was only delirium in his brain. He knew that what he wanted was liquor. And he said his hair stood on end and the sweat broke out in great drops. And the chisel fell from his hand and from the shavings looking up - glaring into his face. (I cannot stand it - I cannot stand it. I must have a drink.)

Just then a Christian lawyer came into the shop - and he said, Dough, old fella - I have been looking for you. I heard of you last night. And I have been hunting for you. And I have come here to tell you to stand up and don't surrender. Be brave. I have the best wife in the world, and she told me to tell you that she had hot coffee and bread if you'd come down. And she would play and sing for you. Fight it through and you will come out alright. As the man walked out, Dough said he put his trembling hand to his head and said, God helping me, I will.

Now that is what we want now in this hour - more than anything else. We want men and women for Heaven. We want wives and mothers and sisters who will do the wonderful work in God's will.

Todd Hall was converted while a detective of the city of Baltimore. And as he sat in the car, one day, he said well sir, I have been busy all day. Yesterday looking for a man and sent him off in the hands of the Cincinnati detectives. I felt very sorry for him - he told me that his wife was ill. And would I please go to see her. I saw the Doctor and asked him when I should go. And when I went, he says, the Doctor said I know you. I used to avoid you. But I do not avoid you any longer. I belong to three clubs - I was a drinking man, and I gambled and got to going away from home. And staying away - and I don't know what became of me. One night I started out with \$47 in my pocket, and came back during the night with 47c. The next morning, I went down to breakfast and I saw my wife standing in the corner of the room with my daughter. They were pale, forsaken, and I looked at them and said what is the matter with you all. He said his daughter looked into his face and said, Papa, you don't know what is the matter. Well, he said, daughter, what is the matter. Well Papa, do you know what time you came home last night. No child, I do not. Then she said, that is what is the matter with mother and me. And he said, he pushed his plate back - that is enough, that will do. Come here both of you and kneel down beside me and God Almighty being my helper - I will never drink another drop. He said, Mr. Hall, that has been two years ago--Hall got up and put his arms around him, and he said the other detective who was not a Christian sat there and cried like a baby. And the Doctor said, go and see that woman. You can give her Christian comfort.

Now we will know each other in Heaven - but let us somehow come to know each other right here. And support each heart with sympathy, and each person we meet with cheer and with a helping hand. We can somehow get our arms around the weak and

the wounded. And help them along through life.